

The Arboretum's mission is
education, research,
conservation,
and to demonstrate how
introduced plant species
and native plants
grow in a
high desert environment.



Wilbur D. May Arboretum &
Botanical Garden

Naturalist Guide



For Ages 11 and older

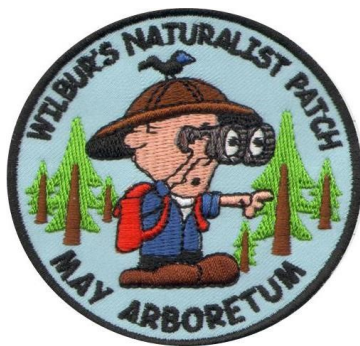


How to Earn Wilbur's Naturalist Patch

1. Fill out your name, mailing address, and phone number.
2. Complete your Naturalist Guide.
3. Mail your completed guide and \$1 to

**May Arboretum
1595 N. Sierra St
Reno, NV 89503**

We will mail you back your completed guide
and a Wilbur's Naturalist Patch!



Home in the Great Basin

Visit the Native Area and check out the plants. See if you can find any with the Great Basin adaptations.

What do the leaves feel like?

What do you notice about the branches?

What kind of colors do you see?

What do you wonder about this area?

Home in the Great Basin

Here in the Great Basin, we don't get a lot of rain. In fact, Nevada is the driest state in the country.

How do plants survive here? Through ADAPTATIONS.

With hot dry summers and freezing dry winters, the plants here have evolved to withstand the harshest of climates.



Examples of plant adaptations in the Great Basin

- Light colored leaves = reflects harsh sun light.
- Waxy coating on leaves = minimizes water evaporation and reflects sun light.
- Tiny furs on leaves = holds water in to minimize evaporation.
- No leaves during summer = minimizes the amount of water needed by a plant to survive in driest time of year.
- Leaf movement = Some plants can physically move/curl their leaves to minimize the amount of sunlight hitting their leaves.

This Guide Belongs To:

Name

Mailing Address

Phone Number

Created by:

Danielle Ornelas, AmeriCorps Member

Mandy Royal, AmeriCorps Member

November 2017

Hiking Adventures in Washoe County

- Wilbur D. May Arboretum
- Bartley Ranch Regional Park
- Davis Creek Regional Park
- Galena Creek Regional Park
- Lockwood Trailhead
- Silver Lake Trail
- Slide Mountain Trail
- And so much more!

*For a complete list of trails, parks, and open
space in Washoe County visit:*

www.washoecounty.us/parks

Arboretum Tracks on the Trail

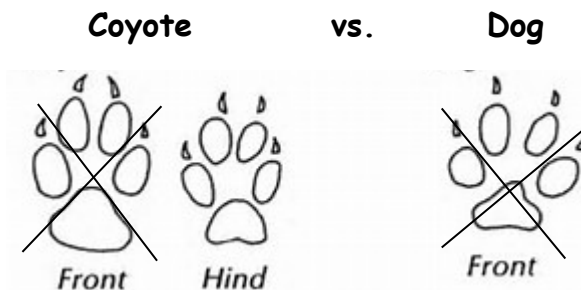
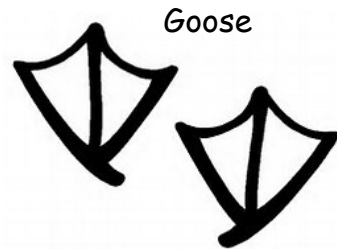
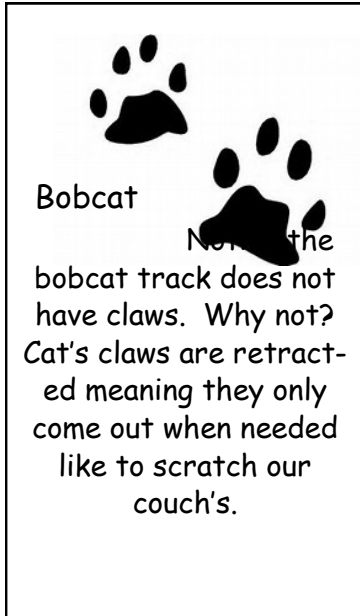
The best place to look for prints is on wet soil. Walk around the Arboretum and look for evidence of wet soil and see if you can find any tracks!

Remember: just finding a partial print is a discovery

Draw or write about your quest below

Arboretum Tracks on the Trail

Just like humans, animals leave tracks wherever they walk. Here at the Arboretum we have lots of animals but we don't always see them. By learning how to read tracks, you can discover a hidden world.



Use a stick and make an "X" between the toes and pad. If the "X" crosses into the pad, it is a dog track. If the "X" does not, it is a coyote.

Explorers Log

Date

Where Did You Explore?

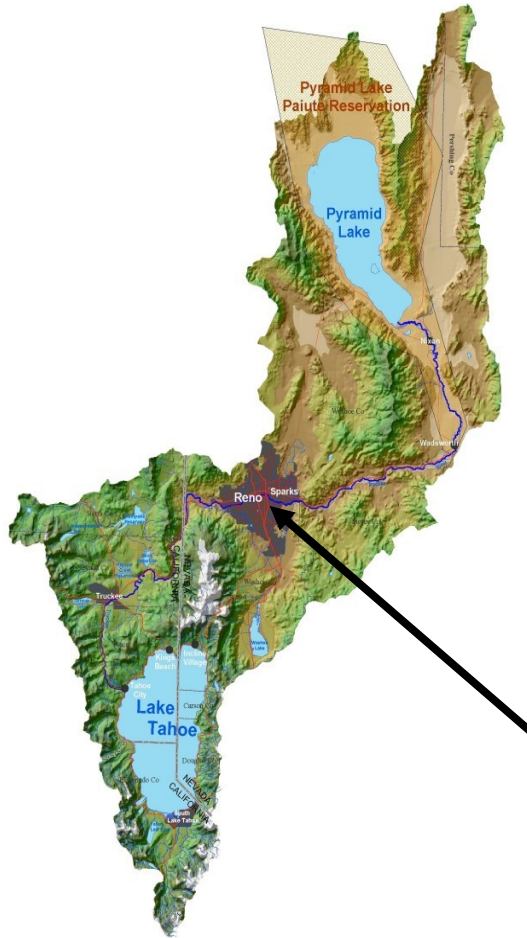
Happy Trail Tips

1. Stay on trail
2. Keep voices low to not scare away wildlife
3. Bring a notebook to record what you see

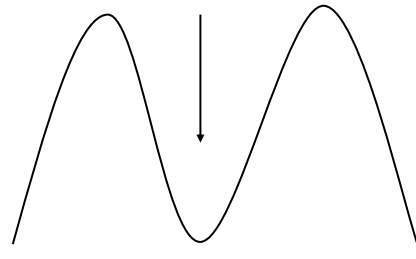
Watershed Wonder

A watershed is land surrounded by mountains/ridges (think of it like an upper case "M") that collects water and drains it into a lagoon, lake, or ocean.

Water enters the watershed through rain, creeks, and rivers.



Watershed



What else enters the watershed?

Everything humans do, from watering our lawns to the oil that comes off our cars.

Here at the Arboretum, we are in the

Truckee River

Watershed

which will drain into
Pyramid Lake.

David's Dichotomous Key


Visit David's Grove near the Native Area and see if you can identify the conifers using the Dichotomous key!

Draw or write about your findings below

David's Dichotomous Key

Have you ever wondered how to tell two trees apart? The easiest way, is to figure out what is different about the trees. The DICHOTOMUS KEY uses the method of differences to identify plants.

conifer: tree with cones & scale/needle like leaves

scales : → 

Dichotomist Key for Conifers

1.		
Short straight pine needles (shorter than your middle finger)	step 5	
Long straight pine needles (longer than your middle finger)	step 2	
2.		
Prickly pine cone	Ponderosa Pine	
Smooth pine cone	Jeffery Pine	
3.		
scale like leaves	step 4	
4.		
blue/purple berries	Western Juniper	
No berries	Incense Cedar	
5.		
Pine cones with long scales	Douglas Fir	
Pine cones with short scales	step 6	
6.		
Needles are white/grey with pine cones pointing up	White Fir	
No	Pinyon Pine	

Watershed Wonder

What do you WONDER about our watershed?
What can YOU do to help keep our watershed clean?

Draw or write your ideas below

Entering: The Riparian Zone

Riparian means the area along a creek or river. Visit the bridge at Evan's Creek.

You are now standing in a RIPARIAN zone!

What do you SEE?

What do you FEEL?

What do you NOTICE?

What do you WONDER?

Entering: The Upland Zone

The upland zone is the area on a mountain or a hill. Visit the gazebo at Lear's Garden.

You are now standing in the UPLAND zone!

What do you SEE?

What do you FEEL?

What do you WONDER?

How is the UPLAND zone different than the RIPARIAN zone?